



*V. Douglas*  
*#10/a*  
*1-6-03*  
**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Andrew P. Kramer et al. Examiner: Frances Oropeza  
Serial No.: 09/748,754 Group Art Unit: 3762  
Filed: December 26, 2000 Docket: 279.166US1  
Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR CARDIAC RHYTHM MANAGEMENT WITH  
SYNCHRONIZED PACING PROTECTION PERIOD

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicant has reviewed the Office Action dated July 18, 2002. Detailed comments to the Office Action are found in the Remarks section below. Amendments to the claims are found in the following Amendments section.

This response is accompanied by a Petition, as well as the appropriate fee, to obtain a 2-month extension of the period for responding to the Office Action, thereby moving the deadline for response from October 18, 2002 to December 18, 2002.

**AMENDMENT**

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please replace claims 1-5, 10-15, 18, and 20 with their respective claims in the appendix entitled "Clean Version of the Amended Claims." The replacement claims are intended to reflect the specific amendments as detailed in the following marked up set of claims.

1. (Amended) A method for operating a cardiac rhythm management device, comprising:  
sensing rate and synchronized heart chambers through separate channels and generating sense signals upon detection of depolarization occurring in a chamber; [and,]  
pacing the synchronized chamber upon expiration of an escape interval in accordance with a synchronized pacing mode based upon rate chamber events [wherein pacing of the synchronized chamber is inhibited during a synchronized chamber protection period that is initiated by a synchronized chamber sense or pace] ; and,

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